

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An illuminatable golf ball comprising:
 an outer translucent shell having an opening therein;
 an inner core portion surrounded by the outer shell, the inner core having a
 5 bore therein in alignment with the opening in the outer shell;
 a self-contained lighting device contained at least in part within the inner core
 portion, the lighting device including an energy source, at least one lighting element,
 and at least two connectors extending between the energy source and the at least one
 lighting element defining an electrical circuit having a deenergized state and an
 10 energized state for providing electrical energy from the energy source to the at least
 one lighting device, at least one of the connectors being flexible and separable from
 the energy source, at least a portion of the at least one flexible connector being
 positioned within the inner core bore; and
 a plunger configured for insertion into the bore,
 15 wherein when the plunger is inserted into the bore between the energy source
 and the at least one flexible connector to change the state of the electrical circuit from
 one of the energized state to the deenergized state and the deenergized state to the
 energized state.
- 20 2. The illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
 plunger is at least in part electrically non-conductive and wherein when the plunger is
 removed from the bore, the at least one flexible connector contacts the energy source
 and closes the electrical circuit to change the state of the circuit from the deenergized
 state to the energized state.
- 25 3. The illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
 plunger is at least in part electrically conductive and wherein when the plunger is
 inserted into the bore, the plunger, completes the electrical circuit to change the state
 of the electrical circuit from the deenergized state to the energized state.
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5 5. The illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 4 wherein the battery is a button-type battery.

6. The illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 1 wherein the lighting device includes two lighting elements and wherein the lighting device includes two connectors, at least one of the connectors being a flexible connector that is positioned adjacent to and separable from the energy source.

7. The illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 2 wherein the entirety of the plunger is formed of an electrically non-conductive material.

15 8. The illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 3 wherein the
entirety of the plunger is formed of an electrically conductive material.

9. The illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 1 wherein the inner core portion is formed of polyurethane.

10. The illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 1 wherein the outer shell is formed of polyurethane.

11. The illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 1 wherein the
25 outer shell is formed with dimples.

12. The illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 6 wherein the two lighting elements are connected in the electrical circuit in parallel.

30 13. A method for making an illuminatable golf ball comprising the steps of:

positioning an energy source, at least one lighting element, and at least two connectors relative to one another such that the at least two connectors extend between the energy source and the at least one lighting element to define an electrical circuit having a deenergized state and an energized state for providing electrical energy from the energy source to the at least one lighting device, at least one of the connectors being flexible and separable from the energy source;

positioning a plunger between the flexible connector and the energy source;

forming an inner core portion around the electrical lighting device such that the energy source, the at least two connectors, and a portion of the lighting element are within the inner core portion; and

forming an outer translucent shell around the inner core portion so as to envelope the inner core portion.

14. The method for making an illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 13 including positioning the connectors so as to rest on the energy source.

15. The method for making an illuminatable golf ball in accordance with claim 13 including positioning one of the connectors in spaced relation to the energy source.

16. An illuminatable golf ball comprising:

an outer translucent shell having an opening therein;

an inner core portion surrounded by the outer shell;

a self-contained lighting device contained at least in part within the inner core portion, the lighting device including an energy source, at least one lighting element, and an electrical circuit including a switch and being switchable between a deenergized state and an energized state for providing electrical energy from the energy source to the at least one lighting element,

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